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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3(b))

Programme 11
Environment

1. At its 14th meeting, on 19 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog.11)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for programme 11 and its overall orientation.

4. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment as narrated in paragraph 11.2 was commended. The view was expressed that the exact role of UNEP in the United Nations needed to be clarified, while other views commended the clarity of the document and it was noted that if any subject required international consensus it was the field of environment.

5. Several views welcomed the UNEP initiative in clustering its medium-term strategy 2010-2013 around six cross-cutting priorities, on which the six

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subprogrammes of the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011 were based, in line with decision GC.SS/X/3 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

6. The view was expressed that the UNEP approach to strengthening its results-based management so as to become a more effective, efficient and results-focused entity would be very useful in the biennium 2010-2011.

7. Queries were raised regarding paragraph 11.5 on the references to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability and the Rome Declaration on Harmonization since they were not United Nations conferences. Clarification was also sought on the exclusion of reference to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as well as the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Clarification was sought on the role of UNEP in creating enabling environments at the national level for responding to climate change, including through the promotion of national legislative, economic and institutional frameworks referred to in paragraph 11.9. Clarification was also sought on the intention of UNEP in strengthening its regional offices during the biennium 2010-2011. The terms of General Assembly resolution 53/242 were recalled, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that in accordance with its mandate, UNEP should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution. A query was raised on the public-awareness initiatives that were being undertaken by the programme.

8. The view was expressed that environmental governance discussed in paragraph 11.12 which also constituted subprogramme 4, was a concept still under discussion in the General Assembly, while another view was expressed that clear references should be made under the subprogramme to mandates and issues related to multilateral environmental agreements. The view was expressed that although the proposals did not raise questions on necessary cooperation between the subprogramme on environmental governance, in-depth review was required. UNEP support to United Nations system-wide coherence and cooperation in the field of the environment was welcomed, and the view was expressed that it would produce results for the current generation and generations to come.

9. The commitment of UNEP to integrate and mainstream gender equality and equity perspectives in all of its subprogrammes was commended. Clarification was sought on the manner in which UNEP would support ecosystem management as outlined in paragraph 11.11. Queries were raised concerning the methodology UNEP used to measure results obtained and whether, in formulating its programme for the period 2010-2011, the lessons learned had been taken into account in arriving at the new measures.

10. Under subprogramme 1, clarification was sought on the method of measuring the achievement of integrating climate change adaptation. A query was also raised regarding paragraph 11.23 (b), in particular the role of UNEP in contributing to conflict prevention and peacebuilding by participating in peacebuilding processes and in United Nations-led peacemaking processes through addressing the environmental component. The view was expressed that subparagraph 11.22 (a) of the strategy of subprogramme 1 should be elaborated as it related to the role of UNEP in providing support to United Nations agencies so as to make the United Nations system climate neutral. The view was expressed that references should be

made under subprogramme 1 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

11. With reference to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 53/242, the view was expressed that the strategy of subprogramme 2, subparagraph 11.23 (b), relating to the contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding by participating in peacebuilding processes, did not reflect the contribution made to Member States nor the mandate of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 2 should also concentrate on environmental security and coordination with other United Nations organizations. Views were also expressed that the conflict aspects of subprogramme 2 should be realigned with mandates given to UNEP, particularly the aspects of the strategy narrated under subparagraph 11.23 (b) on conflict prevention and peacebuilding which gave rise to controversial issues. Another view expressed that the water strategy should be incorporated in the subprogramme.

12. The view was expressed that the intended work of UNEP under subprogramme 3 in ecosystem management goes beyond its framework and the subject of an integrated approach to management of freshwater, terrestrial and coastal and marine systems is as yet undecided. The view was expressed that the strategy of the subprogramme lacks attention to the education factor of countries and regions in ecosystem management while another view expressed that a quantitative approach has been taken with respect to the indicators of achievement.

13. Under subprogramme 5, the view was expressed that the strategy does not note the synergies required in implementing the subprogrammes.

14. Under subprogramme 6, Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, the view was expressed that the objective does not take into account the realities of developing countries and consideration should therefore be given to reflecting the idea of transfer in the subprogramme.

15. Some views were expressed stressing the importance to include more systematically "lessons learned", as appropriate, in the strategies of subprogrammes.

16. Some delegations stressed the importance to promote and support the development and implementation of safer alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and to take this into account when strategies and indicators of achievements on harmful substances and hazardous waste are formulated.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. **The Committee recognized UNEP as the principle actor in the field of environment and underlined the key role it should continue to play on the international scene to help in dealing with serious threats and challenges for the future of the planet and its natural resources, including climate change, sea level rise, the loss of biodiversity, desertification and natural disasters that affected all countries and all people.**

18. **The Committee welcomed the emphasis on furthering the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building and the recognition of South-South cooperation as one of the key mechanisms for the implementation of the Plan.**

19. The Committee urged UNEP, as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, to continue to give special attention to the needs of African countries, least developed countries and small island developing States.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 11.5

Replace the second sentence with the following sentence:

"In that regard, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, other outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, provide a clear direction for the programme."

Paragraph 11.9

In the first sentence, after the words "including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", insert the words "and its Kyoto Protocol".

Paragraph 11.10

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"UNEP will build national capacities to minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of existing and potential natural and man-made disasters, and will raise awareness of conflict-related environmental risks within the context of General Assembly resolution 58/209, by adopting an integrated approach spanning three key operational pillars, namely, vulnerabilities and risk reduction, emergency response and recovery, and mainstreaming environment. Within those pillars, UNEP will emphasize the importance of addressing environmental risks and vulnerabilities as a prerequisite to sustainable development and will seek to integrate environmental management needs within recovery plans of the relevant United Nations actors."

Paragraph 11.16

In the third sentence, insert the words "and countries with economies in transition" after the words "developing countries".

Paragraph 11.20

In the first sentence, replace the words "environmental conflict prevention" with the words "early warning".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In the table heading for each subprogramme after the words "Expected accomplishments" insert the words "of the Secretariat".

Subprogramme 1
Climate change

Objective of the Organization

After the word "countries", insert the words "in particular developing countries".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (c), insert the words "and joint implementation mechanism".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (e), after the word "visits", insert the words "and downloads".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.22

In the third sentence, after the words "including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", insert the words "and its Kyoto Protocol".

Paragraph 11.22 (a)

Replace the words "countries' transition" with the words "transition of countries, in particular developing countries,".

Replace the word "coalitions" with the word "partnerships".

Paragraph 11.22 (b)

After the word "countries", insert the words "in particular developing countries".

Subprogramme 2
Disasters and conflicts

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "conflicts and disasters" with the words "existing and potential natural and man-made disasters".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following:

"Enhanced capacity of Member States in environmental management in order to contribute to natural and man-made disaster risk reduction."

Replace accomplishment (b) with the following:

"Rapid and reliable environmental assessment following conflicts and disasters, as requested."

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (ii), replace the word "mediate" with the word "address" and move the entire indicator to subprogramme 4 to be renumbered as "(c) (iv)".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.23 (a)

At the beginning of the subparagraph, insert the words "Within the existing mandates", and after the word "drylands", insert the words "and lands contaminated by radiation".

Paragraph 11.23 (a) (i)

Delete the words "and the prevention of conflicts between States and between communities".

Paragraph 11.23 (a) (ii)

Replace the words "Addressing acute environmental risks in disaster or post-conflict response operations to minimize" with the words "Assisting in addressing environmental risks in disaster or post-conflict response operations and providing early warning in minimizing."

Paragraph 11.23 (b)

Replace paragraph 11.23 (b) with the following:

"Upon request by Member States to provide early warning on environmental data and expertise on sustainable management of transboundary and shared natural resources related to relevant initiatives led by the United Nations."

Paragraph 11.23 (c)

After the words "global level", delete the words "such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the International Arctic Science Committee, UNDP and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction".

Subprogramme 3
Ecosystem management

Strategy

Paragraph 11.24

In the third sentence, after the word "entities", delete the words "within the context of delivering as one".

Subprogramme 4
Environmental governance

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the words "The United Nations system" insert the words "respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively realizes synergies and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), replace the words "being addressed" with the words "agreed upon and decided".

Add a new indicator (a) (iv) to read "Increased number of coordinated activities between the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP, under the umbrella of UNEP".

Add a new indicator (b) (ii) to read "Increased number of international organizations that consider the policy guidance of UNEP in the area of environment including the principles of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building".

Renumber existing indicator "(b)" as "(b) (i)" and move indicator "(a) (ii)" as revised from subprogramme 2 to this subprogramme and renumber as indicator "(c) (iv)".

In indicator (d) (ii), after the word "visits", insert the words "and downloads".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.25 (a)

In the third sentence, after the words "effective implementation", insert the words "respecting the mandate of each entity".

Subprogramme 5
Harmful substances and hazardous waste

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator (c) (iii) to read, "Increased number of measures set in place to improve synergies between the multilateral environmental agreements relating to chemicals and waste".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.26 (c)

At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "In line with UNEP Governing Council decision SS.X/1, the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the Conventions of Bâle, Rotterdam and Stockholm could contribute positively to the implementation of the principles defended by those Conventions for the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste. UNEP will continue to sustain the synergies process initiated on the matter between those three Conventions."

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

After resolution 61/230 in the first grouping of General Assembly resolutions, insert the following resolution:

"62/9 Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster".